

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants submit herewith five (5) replacement sheets of new drawings. The drawings have been formalized and the label "Prior Art" has been added to Figures 1 and 2.

REMARKS

The Office Action Mailed August 25, 2006 has been given careful consideration by the applicants. Recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 4, and 6-9 is noted with appreciation. However, reconsideration and reexamination of the application is hereby respectfully requested. Claims 1-9 and 11-15 remain in the application.

The Office Action

The Examiner objected to the drawings.

The Examiner objected to claims 7, 9 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,882,498 to Cochran et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication 08-254417 to Kobayashi et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,004,909 to Fukuchi.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,691,811 to Kihira.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,542,236 to Kim.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim.

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,554,451 to Bourn.

The Examiner indicated that claims 3, 4 and 6-9 were allowable but objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Non-Art Matters

The Examiner objected to the drawings. However, replacement sheets are being submitted herewith. As such, the objections of the Examiner are submitted to be overcome.

The Examiner objected to claims 7, 9, 11 and 13 for various informalities. In response, these claims have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

The Amended Claims Distinguish Over the Cited Art

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 2, 5 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cochran '498. However, it is respectfully submitted that Cochran '498 does not include a patterned illuminator as described and claimed in the present application. The Examiner indicates that element 10 in Cochran '498 is a patterned illuminator. However, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner does not establish that the element 10 provides spatially adjacent regions of uniform, diffuse lighting and lighting voids to produce engineered illumination fields. The element 10 is described in connection with a diffuser plate 16. Nonetheless, this arrangement should not be fairly read to be the patterned illuminator contemplated and claimed by the present invention. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 14 are submitted to be distinguishable from Cochran '498. Likewise, all claims dependent thereon are submitted to be distinguishable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5 and 12-14 as being anticipated by Kobayashi. However, Kobayashi does not disclose a patterned illuminator comprising light emitting diodes. Indeed, the Examiner recognized this fact. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 14 are submitted to be distinguishable over the cited art. Likewise, all claims dependent thereon are submitted to be distinguishable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 12-14 as being anticipated by Fukuchi. However, Fukuchi does not include a patterned illuminator comprising light emitting diodes. Fukuchi merely shows a light source 10, but does not specifically disclose light emitting diodes, or LEDs. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 14 are submitted to be distinguishable from Fukuchi. Likewise, all claims dependent thereon are submitted to be distinguishable.

Claims 1 and 12-14 were rejected as being anticipated by Kihira. However, it is respectfully submitted that Kihira does not disclose a patterned illuminator comprising light emitting diodes. Kihira merely discloses a light source which, in one form, includes a fluorescent light. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 14 are submitted to be distinguishable over Kihira. Likewise, all claims dependent thereon are submitted to be distinguishable.

Claim 14 was rejected as being anticipated by Kim. However, Kim does not fairly disclose positioning a part under inspection using a transport mechanism at a

selected location relative to a patterned illuminator comprising light emitting diodes. Therefore, claim 14 is submitted to be distinguishable over Kim.

The Examiner also rejected claim 15 under §103 in view of Kim. Because claim 15 is dependent upon claim 14, claim 15 is likewise submitted to be distinguishable. Further, the Examiner's assertion that choosing to reposition the part is a matter of design choice is not persuasive. Indeed, Kim does not fairly disclose any means for transporting parts under inspection. Therefore, claims 15 is distinguishable over Kim.

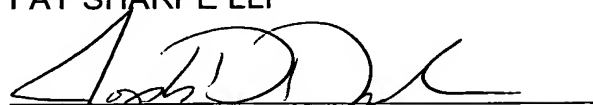
Claims 10 and 11 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Bourn. However, claim 10 has been cancelled and incorporated in claim 1. Nonetheless, these claims are not rendered obvious by the suggested combination. In this regard, Bourn and Kobayashi are not combinable. Bourn relates to a machine vision ring light source and a reflective ring focusing element. It is submitted that this type of configuration is not apparently contemplated by Kobayashi. Moreover, even if one would be motivated to combine these teachings, it is merely hindsight analysis to attempt to combine Bourn with Kobayashi to render the present claims obvious. Therefore, the rejection is submitted to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-9 and 11-15) are now in condition for allowance.

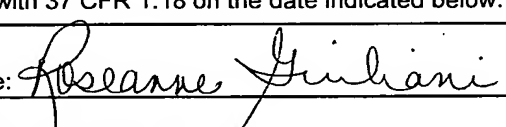
Respectfully submitted,

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